

PROTECTING OUR WORKING FAMILIES

Nation Leading Foreclosure Prevention Efforts

The O'Malley Brown Administration is putting *Families First* and fighting for our most vulnerable citizens who have been hit by this economic downturn, establishing what the Washington Post said were "among the most sweeping [reforms] in the country." Maryland has since become a national model for combating home foreclosures by putting together a broad coalition of counselors, advocates, more than 700 pro bono lawyers, and spiritual leaders from across our State to keep families in their homes.

Ending Childhood Hunger in Maryland

The O'Malley Brown Administration joined together with Share Our Strength to put Maryland on track to become the first state in the nation to end childhood hunger within its borders by 2015. Through school breakfast, lunch and year-round summer food services, the Partnership is ensuring that every child in Maryland has an opportunity to reach their full potential at school and at home. Governor O'Malley has secured an additional \$22 million to ensure that every child receives a daily, nutritional breakfast and lunch.

Protecting Maryland's Storied Horse Racing Industry

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown acted quickly and efficiently to preserve Maryland's options for keeping the rich tradition of the Preakness here in Maryland where it belongs and protecting an industry that employs more than 20,000 Marylanders and has a total economic impact well in excess of \$1.6 billion.

Expanding Unemployment Insurance to Part Time Workers

The O'Malley Brown Administration successfully sponsored legislation that ensures that Maryland's 420,000 part-time workers are able to receive unemployment benefits if they are experiencing temporary job loss. Previously, these workers and their employers were asked to pay into an unemployment insurance system that denied them benefits; today, these same workers and their families who are relying on income from a part-time job can draw benefits from this critical safety net program, giving them the opportunity to successfully transition into new employment.

Updating Our Unemployment Benefit System

The O'Malley-Brown Administration is leading the way by moving our unemployment benefit system to debit cards and direct deposits so that families receive their

benefits more quickly, saving our State over \$400,000 in postage and paper costs and providing an alternative to unscrupulous check cashing centers who would prey on our most vulnerable neighbors.



Providing Critical Job Services to Marylanders through...

► One Stop Job Centers

Our Administration is providing critical career services and job resources to Marylanders looking for work through 33 One Stop Centers located in every region of our State. Each One Stop Center provides job search tools and workshops on topics like resumé writing and computer skills while aiding Marylanders in finding new work.

► Rapid Response Job Services and Retraining

The O'Malley Brown Administration is coming to the aid of Maryland families who have been hit hardest by this economic downturn by providing rapid response job services to companies with impending layoffs to help workers transition smoothly into new jobs and training opportunities.

Cracking Down on Workplace Fraud

The O'Malley Brown Administration successfully proposed legislation that cracks down on employers who fraudulently misclassify their employees as independent contractors, giving them an unfair competitive advantage over law-abiding businesses. This will save Maryland taxpayers nearly \$100 million each year in recovered income tax collections and unemployment insurance payments.

Fair Share

Governor O'Malley recently signed into law Fair Share legislation that calls on everyone benefitting from a contract to also share in the cost of obtaining it, providing workers and unions with the resources they need to weather the economic downturn, and offering a better understanding of rights and responsibilities.

Fighting for a Living Wage

The O'Malley Brown Administration fought hard to become the first state in the nation to pass a Living Wage law that requires employers working on state contracts to pay their employees a fair living wage, enabling them to support their families.

Increasing the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown led the fight to increase the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit by 25% so that more of our hard working families have the resources they need to weather this tough economy.

Investing in Maryland's Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses

The O'Malley Brown Administration is committed to Maryland's women and minority-owned businesses, increasing State awards to MBE firms by more than \$300 million since taking office.



Designating Maryland BRAC Zones for Workforce Development

Governor O'Malley's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Subcabinet, led by Lt. Governor Brown recently, designated five "BRAC Zones" throughout Maryland to help direct and prepare for BRAC-related growth opportunities while enhancing the quality of life for all Maryland citizens.

Creating 100,000 New Green Jobs

Governor O'Malley launched the Maryland Clean Energy Center, which is tasked with moving Maryland towards our shared goal of creating 100,000 new green jobs Statewide through the development and

deployment of clean energy technologies all across our State.



Home Energy Assistance

The O'Malley Brown Administration is investing a record \$132 million in home energy assistance programs so that, even during these challenging economic times for our nation, no family in Maryland is faced with the potentially life-threatening possibility of a service disconnection during a temporary period of financial hardship.

Providing Rate Relief for Marylanders

After restoring professional regulators to Maryland's Public Service Commission, the O'Malley Brown Administration secured more than \$2 billion in relief for Maryland rate payers, and is leading a regional coalition of States in a lawsuit to level the playing field between big energy companies and consumers.

Holding the Nation's First-Ever Auction of Carbon Credits

The O'Malley Brown Administration is leading the way by holding the first-in-the-nation auction of credits for carbon emissions, securing more than \$136 million for Maryland's Strategic Energy Investment Fund that helps us invest in the research and development of clean, efficient energy technologies like solar and wind power, as well as provide energy assistance for Maryland families through free home energy audits and technology upgrades.

